

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An implantable device for delivering a therapeutic agent into a vessel, the device comprising:

a stent having a plurality of tubular members, each tubular member being formed into a plurality of circumferential ring[[s]] having a plurality of upper peaks and lower peaks, the lower peaks of one circumferential ring being coupled to the upper peaks of an adjacent circumferential ring, ~~the~~ each tubular member having one or more hollow core sections and a multiplicity of pores providing fluid communication between the one or more hollow core sections and the external environment; and

a therapeutic agent dispersed within a bioabsorbable polymer, the bioabsorbable polymer contained in the one or more hollow core sections, wherein the therapeutic agent is configured to be eluted from the one or more hollow core sections into the vessel through the multiplicity of pores after implantation of the stent within the vessel, the bioabsorbable polymer mediating the delivery of the therapeutic agent over an extended period of time.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The device of claim 1 wherein the one or more hollow core sections extend within at least a portion of the circumferential rings.

3. **(Withdrawn)** The device of claim 1 wherein the tubular member comprises at least one solid section that segregates the lumen into two or more compartments.

4. **(Withdrawn)** The device of claim 3 wherein a compartment is disposed between a first solid section and a second solid section.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The device of claim 1 wherein the multiplicity of pores are spaced apart at variable distances with respect to one another.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The device of claim 1 wherein the multiplicity of pores are disposed circumferentially about an exterior surface of the tubular member.

7. **(Original)** The device of claim 1 wherein the multiplicity of pores vary in size with respect to one another.

8. **(Original)** The device of claim 1 wherein the multiplicity of pores vary in shape with respect to one another

9. **(Withdrawn)** The device of claim 1 wherein the tubular member comprises a contracted state suitable for insertion into a vessel, and a deployed state in which the tubular member comprises a coil shape configured to contact an inner wall of the vessel.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The device of claim 9 wherein the tubular member comprises a shape memory material.

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Withdrawn)** The device of claim 1 wherein a plurality of the tubular members are braided to form a mesh.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The device of claim 13 further comprising at least one solid segment braided together with the plurality of tubular members.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A method for manufacturing a stent for use in a vessel, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of tubes, each having one or more hollow core sections;

forming a multiplicity of pores in a lateral surface of the each tube, the multiplicity of pores providing fluid communication between the one or more hollow core sections and the external environment;

forming a stent from the tube by forming the each tube into one or more a circumferential ring[[s]] having a plurality of upper peaks and lower peaks;

forming a stent from the circumferential rings by coupling the lower peaks of one circumferential ring to the upper peaks of an adjacent circumferential ring;

providing a therapeutic agent;

dispersing the therapeutic agent within a bioabsorbable polymer having a composition that controls elution of the therapeutic agent by biodegrading over a predetermined period of time; and

loading the therapeutic agent and biodegradable bioabsorbable polymer into the one or more hollow core[[s]] sections of each tube,

wherein the therapeutic agent is formulated to be retained within the one or more hollow core sections during delivery of the stent and thereafter eluted within the vessel with a rate controlled by biodegradation of the bioabsorbable polymer.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 15 wherein the therapeutic agent is inserted into a proximal opening of the tube in fluid communication with the one or more hollow core sections.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 15 wherein the tube is formed from a shape-memory alloy.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15 wherein forming a stent from the tube comprises braiding a plurality of tubes to form a mesh stent.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the multiplicity of pores are disposed circumferentially about an exterior surface of the tube.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein multiplicity of pores are disposed at variable distances with respect to one another.

23. **(Currently Amended)** A method for delivering a therapeutic agent into a vessel, the method comprising:

providing a stent formed from a plurality of tubular members, each tubular member being formed into a plurality of circumferential rings, the tubular member having one or more hollow core sections with a therapeutic agent dispersed within a bioabsorbable polymer disposed therein and a multiplicity of pores providing fluid communication between the one or more hollow core sections and the external environment;

implanting the stent within the vessel; and

eluting the therapeutic agent from the one or more hollow core sections into the vessel through the multiplicity of pores by biodegradation of the bioabsorbable polymer, the bioabsorbable polymer mediating elution of the therapeutic agent over an extended period of time.

24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Canceled)**

26. **(New)** The device of claim 1, wherein a first circumferential ring contains a first therapeutic agent and a second circumferential ring contains a second therapeutic agent.

27. **(New)** The device of claim 26, wherein the first circumferential ring and the second circumferential ring are coupled together in sequence to form at least a portion of the stent.